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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1895.

TO-DAY'S MEETINGS AND EVENTS.

Schiller Lodge, I. O. F., Schiller Hall, Stuart Council, L. O. E., Powell's Hall, Martha Washington Lodge, Knights and Ladies of Honor, 9th and Fifth streets, Richmond Council, Chosen Friends, Elletts Hall, Richmond Lodge, A. O. U. W., Odd-Fellows Hall, Queen Lodge, Golden Shore, Elletts Hall, Company B, First Regiment, Armory, Elks Beneficial and Social Society, Central Hall.

NO TIMES TO-MORROW.

The Times will not be issued to-morrow, because to-day is Christmas-Day, and a paper to-morrow would make all our employees stick as closely to their posts as they do on ordinary days. Some of our readers would doubtless wish to have their paper to-morrow as usual, but a majority of them, we believe, if individually consulted, would say we will forego the pleasure for one day, in order that your large force of employees may feel that they are to be allowed to enjoy the holiday along with the rest of the world.

The Times wishes all of its readers the merriest of Christmases, and hopes that nothing may mar the pleasures of the Yuletide.

CHRISTMAS!

What does Christmas stand for, and why is it celebrated? What is the power unseen which so moves the minds and hearts of men that in almost every part of the world, and certainly with almost unanimity in the greater part of it, people of all classes and ages all Christmas happy, and devote themselves not merely to enjoying themselves, but to ministering to the joys of others? Why is it that the spirit of this festival is one of peace and good-will, and that cordial salutations, fervent benedictions, and substantial benefactions, are the order of the day? The answer to these very natural inquiries must be found in the history and character of Him whose manifestation in human form is celebrated on Christmas-Day.

And what did He do? He left no writing, indeed, except when once "He stooped down, and with His finger wrote on the ground," there is no record that He ever wrote at all. He left no monuments or buildings, for He said of Himself, "the foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man hath not where to lay His head." He exercised no political power, for when, after seeing His wonderful works, some would have made Him a king, He departed to a mountain alone, and later declared: "My kingdom is not of this world."

If, then, there were none of the usual evidences of human power and influence which go to make the foundation of a historical immortality, what was there in the life and words of Jesus Christ which has spread His spiritual kingdom from pole to pole, and which to-day make millions on millions of the most civilized people on earth devoutly declare that His name is above every other name, and that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow?

This may never be fully explained or understood, but there is enough in the record which has come down to us to remove that person entirely out of the sphere of those whose claim to reverence is due to their learning, their patriotism, their genius, or their philanthropy.

What other person ever declared: "I am the light of the world;" "Whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst;" "Come unto me, ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden light;" "I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth on me, even though he were dead, yet shall he live;" Why were not these marvellous claims instantly rejected as the presumptuous pretensions of one who had himself no right? And why is it that they have not only not been rejected, but have been accepted by countless millions, who have found rest for their souls, and who believe, with the Apostle Paul, that "our Saviour, Jesus Christ, hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel?"

These are great mysteries, and were recognized as such from the beginning of the gospel, but the facts are none the less apparent, and may be seen, and known of all men.

The power which moves the minds of men at Christmas is consciously or unconsciously the name and spirit of

Christ, and whatever agnostics or unbelievers may say or think, that power is growing, and God be praised for it; and the fruit of that spirit is love, joy, peace, suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance; against such there is no law."

ABIT OF HISTORY THAT SUITS THE CASE.

It has totally passed out of the memory of men and is now known only to those interested in history, that, seventy years ago this country had an experience in connection with the "Monroe doctrine" very similar to what we have been going through with for the past week, and a recurrence to it now may have a most useful effect in clearing up the minds of men as to what is really involved now, and as to what this country ought now to do. A full and most interesting account of the whole business may be found in the 25th chapter of the first volume of *Benton's Thirty Years in the Senate*, page 65, from which we condense this article.

In 1823, the Spanish American republics, having been recently thrown off their European allegiance, and being threatened by the "Holy Alliance," in its plan to check the progress of human liberty, determined to hold a congress at Panama, to which the United States were invited to send delegates. John Quincy Adams was then President. He was Secretary of State to Mr. Monroe when that President announced the "Monroe doctrine."

In 1823, and it has always been claimed for Mr. Adams that he wrote that part of the President's message. Mr. Adams took up the proposition to send delegates to the Panama Congress and made it an Administration measure, all congressmen supporting it being known as special friends of the Administration, while those who opposed it were understood to stand in presidential disfavor. It was not a matter of very much moment in itself, yet Benton tells us:

"It was a master subject on the political theatre of its day, and gave rise to questions of national and of constitutional law, and of national policy, the importance of which surpassed the occasion from which they sprang; and the solution of which (as then solved) may be some guide to future action, if similar questions again occur. Besides the grave questions to which the subject gave rise, it also excited a popular movement, which might have the effect of turning the tide, which was then running high against Mr. Adams and Mr. Clay."

And Benton adds: All those who supported the Administration in the contest had afterwards, either for themselves, or their relatives, provision made out of the public treasury, by large dispensations of Executive patronage—which shows that this is not the first time in our history that the "Monroe doctrine" has been made the machinery for accomplishing presidential political aims and ends.

As soon as the measure came before Congress all the members of that body who thought of the whole subject as the Times now thinks of it, opened their batteries upon it and the discussion resulted in the passage by the House of Representatives of the resolution which we quoted yesterday, but which is interesting and important enough to be printed again here. It was as follows:

That the United States ought not to become a party with the Spanish-American republics, or either of them, to any joint declaration, for the purpose of preventing interference by any of the European powers with their independence or form of government, or to any compact for the purpose of preventing colonization upon the continents of America, but that the people of the United States should be left free to act in any crisis such as a war, upon their feelings and friendship towards those republics, and as their own honor and policy may at the time dictate.

This is a very plain statement of what the people of the day when the Monroe doctrine was announced thought it meant, and if President Cleveland ever read the resolution and the history of the period that brought it about he ought to blush when thinking of the message he has just sent to Congress.

But the most significant and important circumstance connected with the incident is the message President Adams sent to Congress when recommending the appointment of delegates to the Panama Congress. He was President Monroe's Secretary of State when the "Monroe doctrine" was announced, and, as already stated, is believed to have written the "doctrine" itself. If any man of that day knew what was intended by the Monroe doctrine, John Quincy Adams knew. Yet, in his message, in stating the objects of the proposed congress at Panama, so far as the United States could engage in them, he says:

"An agreement between all the parties represented at the meeting, that each will guard, by its own means, against the establishment of any future European colony within its borders, may be found advisable. This was, more than two years since, announced by my predecessor to the world, as a principle resulting from the emancipation of both the American continents. It may be so developed to the new Southern nations that they may feel it an essential appendage to their independence."

Here, then, is President Adams' definition of the Monroe doctrine, made within two years of its announcement. It required Europeans to give up the idea of planting colonies in either of the Americas, but each country was to prevent such action for itself, and no one country had the right to look to any other one for aid in doing it.

It only remains to state that, after the subject had been fully debated in both houses of Congress, there being then in each statesman who knew the history of our institutions and their spirit and intent, the resolution we have quoted was passed by the House of Representatives, the people were made to understand the whole subject in all its bearings, popular excitement calmed down, the proposed congress came to naught, and the temper in the temper evaporated in steam. Benton concludes his account of the affair in these words:

"No question in its day excited more heat and intemperate discussion, or more feeling than the new Southern nations, than this proposed mission to the Congress of American Nations, at Panama, and no heated question ever cooled off

and died so suddenly and completely. And now the chief benefit to be derived from its retrospect—and that, indeed, is a real one—is a view of the firmness with which was then maintained by a minority the old policy of the United States, to avoid entangling alliances and interferences with the affairs of other nations, and the disposition of the Monroe doctrine from one so competent to give it as Mr. Adams."

It is most fortunate for us that Senator Benton preserved for us this account of the Panama Congress incident. It furnishes us with a model upon which to form our own conduct now, and we have no sort of doubt that in a very short time the good sense of our people will assert itself, as it was then asserted, and that third-tier schemers and their aids and abettors will be left hung high in the air while the American people go along with their ordinary course of affairs.

But what is to be thought of the fact that America had no single representative in either body of Congress last week sufficiently familiar with the principles of our Government and our history to discuss this question and bring before Congress and the country the facts herein set out?

In reviewing the agitation of the Monroe doctrine, in 1823, with the revival of it in 1895, we may, indeed, exclaim, with King Solomon:

"The thing that hath been, is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done; and there is no new thing under the sun."

"Is there anything whereof it may be said, see this is new? It hath been already of old time, which was before us."

THE REPUBLICAN RELIEF MEASURES.

The Republican majority in Congress is only playing the ostrich and sticking its head in the sand to expose its person, when it comes forward with its present propositions as measures equal to relieving the situation that the country is placed in. It is not dealing with the case on its merits. It is playing for political points. It ought to know that a game of that sort never has fooled the people, and never will. The people see through all such stratagems, and make the authors of them aware of that fact in due time whenever they are attempted.

The Republican majority ought to understand that the country is in a most serious position; that there is real risk that gold payments may have to be suspended, and they should have patriotism and public spirit enough to raise them above the petty and contemptible plane of party squabbles, and to deal with the case as judgment and wisdom require it to be treated.

The pretence that a lack of revenue is the cause of our troubles, in order that they may get protective duties restored, deceives no one. The public understand perfectly well that the wasteful appropriations of the Reed billion-dollar Congress caused a deficiency of revenue, but it also understands that the redemptions of greenbacks with gold—that the free-silver scare has forced on the Government have kept it supplied with ample and more than ample revenue, so that it has now nearly a hundred millions of these redeemed greenbacks that it is required by law to pay out to meet all deficiencies in the revenue. It understands also that the revenues under the Wilson bill are steadily increasing and that, barring war, they will be ample for all the expenses of government in the next fiscal year. There has, therefore, been no sort of need for any more revenue and, indeed, it there had been more revenue how would the Government have complied with the law, which requires it to pay the greenbacks out when they come into the Treasury? If the revenues had all along been equal to the expenses two-thirds of the greenbacks would now be hopelessly locked up in the Treasury and the Ponziards would be howling that the currency was becoming constricted.

The pretence about lack of revenue is, therefore, nothing but a pretence that will fool no one, and the Republicans had just as well drop it as a real measure, and declare it to be what it really is—an attempt to re-establish old-time protective duties in this country. We don't suppose that in losing his head Mr. Cleveland has also lost his courage, and we confidently look for a veto of this measure, therefore, when it reaches him.

As for their other proposal, we really see nothing in it at all. The Government has all the power it needs to sell bonds for replenishing the gold reserve, and the second branch of their relief measure is nothing but another scheme for selling bonds. It makes a case of twelve-dollar instead of one of twelve-cent. If it is enacted into law, it will leave the situation just what it found it and there will be the end of it.

What the country wants is legislation that will satisfy the world we have no idea of departing from the standard of the gold dollar and perfect freedom to all men to create and assign their credits as they please. Provide for taking in and destroying all the greenbacks and Treasury notes, and repeal the tax of 10 per cent. on the issues of State banks, and the case will take care of itself as soon as the war scare is over.

GEN. FITZ. LEE'S OPINION OF THE SHARPESBURG CAMPAIGN.

In the Times of December 15th there was a letter from Mr. B. M. Farham, in which he referred to the fact that President Webster, of Brown University, in a lecture delivered in Savannah, Ga., said that "General Fitzhugh Lee had made a mistake by going into Maryland." The reference is to the Sharpsburg campaign. Mr. Farham asks that somebody will enlighten him as to when and where General Fitz. Lee made this statement.

We have taken the trouble to investigate the matter, and can state that General Fitz. Lee never made use of any such expression to any one. President Webster may possibly have based his remarks upon what General Fitz. Lee says in his Life of General R. E. Lee, in reference to the Maryland campaign, viz: "General Lee's Maryland campaign was a failure. He added but few recruits to his army, lost ten thousand men, and fought a drawn battle, which, for an invading army, is not a success. It was preferable, in his opinion, to consuming the substance of the Confederacy in Virginia, after the Second Manassas,

and the result of a victory in Maryland was worth the attempt."

General Fitz. Lee states in that he never thought the march into Maryland was a mistake. He says: "The three very important considerations deterring it were, first, the question of supplies or the relief of the Southern commissary and quartermaster's departments in Richmond; second, a hope of securing reinforcements to the army from the ranks of those who sympathized with the Southern cause in Maryland; third, the result to be obtained by winning a decisive victory in that State, which would have been so much greater than one was in Virginia."

Unquestionably a copy of the movements of General Lee's army fell into McClellan's hands, which caused him to confront General Lee more rapidly than he intended or General Lee expected, and forced Lee to fight at Sharpsburg in order to avail himself of Jackson's assistance. I think General Lee had originally calculated that he could capture Harpers Ferry and bring Jackson back, and have plenty of time afterwards to mature his plans to fight McClellan. He then adds most emphatically that he never thought General Lee made any mistake in going to Maryland.

ACQUITTAL OF MRS. LEE.

Mr. Charles R. Fellows and Miss Abbie L. Gordon, United.

A quiet but impressive marriage ceremony took place yesterday in the parlors of Rev. Dr. George Cooper, pastor of the First Baptist church, when Mr. Charles R. Fellows and Miss Abbie L. Gordon were united in holy matrimony. The bride is a daughter of the late Mr. George M. Gordon, of Church Hill.

The groom is a son of Mr. C. W. Fellows, who is with the well-known firm of Julius Meyer & Son, and is a rising man of popularity. He is a high-standing man of present engaged in business in Baltimore.

Promising Young Singer.

The Chicago Inter-Ocean in its issue of December 21st says: "Miss Agnes Ragland, of Richmond, Va., is said to be one of the most promising of young American sopranos. She is said to have a voice of exceptional range, purity, and beauty, and to be possessed of a charming personal presence."

She is said to have many friends in Richmond, and will be glad to learn of her remarkable success in the musical world during the past year.

A Card From Colonel R. E. Hubbard.

(Communicated.)

Following is the substance of a letter, dated Dec. 21, 1895, to the Senate and People of Virginia: "I read with amazement in the Richmond papers of to-day the report of what is truly reported to be a most reckless and shameless slander upon my character, made on the floor of the State Senate, under what seems to me a gross abuse of privilege. The slander is by Mr. H. D. Flood, who has 'been returned' as Senator from this, the Eighteenth, district, elected by a sense of duty to the public, and after full notice of contest, regularly served upon H. D. Flood, I prepared a memorial to the Senate, and instructed Messrs. Whittey & Shepperson, printers, to direct them, as soon as ready, to mail twenty-five copies to 'Dr. Fennell, Clerk of the Senate.' This was before the Legislature convened. There was more delay than I calculated on in the printing, and on getting some copies a week ago from the printer, I wrote Senator Flanagan, asking him to inquire where the copies were. I had ordered for the Senate, and I had a letter from 'Dr. Fennell, Clerk of the Senate,' enclosing the original notice of contest, advised him of the delay, and he at once instructed him to 'deliver a copy' to each member of the Committee of Privileges and Elections, including Mr. H. D. Flood. I supposed at the time that the original notice of contest, which was in fact not printed till after the Legislature met, the printed copies for the Senate may not have been sent from the office to the new clerk. I have not heard from Mr. Flanagan. So much for Mr. Flood's lack of information. I write with Flood's circular of October 21st before me. The term 'malicious lie' nowhere occurs in it. 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